

6267 Castille Ct.,
Gloucester K1C 1X4

The Hon John Crosbie, M.P.
Minister of Trade,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

K1A 0A6

20 February 1990

Dear Mr. Crosbie,

I was very impressed by your statement on "Morningside" (6 February 1990) in relation to the mess the Atlantic fishery is in as a result of a tendency to wait for science to be able explain every minute detail on a subject before we act to protect the interests of Canadians who may be affected. I believe you said

"I am not blindly following the advice of any scientist ever any more."

Your feelings are shared, I'm sure, by the past Minister of the Environment. In a speech in the United States, Mr. McMillan expressed the concern that

"we cannot wait for science to provide irrefutable proof" before we commence action on environmental concerns.

In the same speech the former Minister also stated that there are "artificial barriers" between the Departments of Environment and National Health and Welfare which may be getting in the way of further action.

You have also been helpful in referring concerns about people suffering from environmental sensitivities to the past Minister of National Health and Welfare, and for that I am very grateful. As a result of your efforts and those of other members (in particular Dr. Bruce Halliday, M.P.) the Minister of Health and Welfare has asked the Director General of the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control (Dr. Joe Losos) to explore this issue.

Dr. Losos has told me he'd like to establish a better scientific understanding of environmental sensitivities which, of course, is bound to be a great help to people disabled by these disorders. But as the Ontario Medical Association has stated, people with this problem have "social concerns that are not being met", and that while a better scientific understanding is needed, meanwhile we should "avoid blaming the victims".

Would you be so kind as to pass on to Mr. Beatty the lesson of your experience in waiting for science before dealing with issues, and encourage him to act on the non-medical human and social concerns arising from environmental sensitivities, the effects of which are contributing to disabilities, disenfranchisement, damages, and deaths, usually by suicide?

Sincerely,



Chris Brown
(613) 837 7173

cc The Hon Gerry Weiner, M.P., Minister Responsible for the
Status of Disabled Persons
Dr. Bruce Halliday, M.P., Chair, Standing Committee on Human
Rights
Sheila Copps, M.P., Liberal Environment Spokesperson
Chris Axworthy, M.P., NDP Health Critic
Maxwell Yalden, CHRC